[Class C Families]

842

are known to the majority. It was pointed out by the men with a laugh that such things were unprocurable in town because the institute drugstore is run by a friar. They are obtainable in Centro and Salvador, but they are expensive, and the men say they are embarrassed to ask for them. One young couple sent to São Paulo for some injections to be given to the wife to prevent conception, but they did no good. The couple had found an announcement of the injections in a magazine, and since they wanted to limit their family to the one child they already had, they tried other means. They now have three children in spite of their efforts at prevention.

• 847 [278] There also are local remedies which are supposed to produce abortions. They consist of herbal teas and for the most part are supposed to be effective only up to the third month of pregnancy. Aluman, coqueiro root, orelha de pau, pitanga, mil homem root, and melão de São Caetano are all supposed to be effective. Few women will admit to having used them, although they all know about them. Figures on the number of natural abortions are almost impossible to obtain, for most often there is no record at all. The mother does not go to the doctor; she simply buries tal bobagem (such nonsense) in the 843 back yard. Those who admit having had miscarriages say they came about because of a fall, or frequently because of a great fright such as seeing a snake on the road. Most women do not 841 515 keep track of their menstrual periods, and according to the town doctor their personal hygiene leaves much to be desired. 864 Little or no information is directly passed between father and sons or mother and daughters concerning sexual matters. Each generation is left to find out for itself.

838 There are a few male sexual aberrants in town, known as "veados" (literally, "deer," but slang for homosexuals), and they are well known. A middle-aged fisherman, Patão, is the center of such activities. He is married and has several children. When his wife found out about his extramarital activities she took the children and left him, terribly shamed. This happened several years ago, and since then this man has worked up quite a trade, mostly among unmarried men, though there are at least three married men who go to him also. [548] Their excuse is that there are not enough women in the town, and since there are no prostitutes they go to him, although they do not like it. The married men say it is because their wives are ill or away, and they do not want complications with some girl. Patão, however, regales the daily gossip groups